

**REPORT TO:** Health and Wellbeing Board  
**DATE:** 6 July 2022  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health  
**SUBJECT:** Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide members of the Board with the final version of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and briefing on the results of the statutory 60-day consultation.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The Board approve the PNA for publication**
- ii) **The Board delegate the Steering Group to deal with production of supplementary statements needed throughout the lifetime of the PNA**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) is a statutory document that states the pharmacy needs of the local population. This includes dispensing services as well as public health and other services that pharmacies may provide. It is used as the framework for making decisions when granting new contracts and approving changes to existing contracts as well as for commissioning pharmacy services. First detailed in the NHS Act 2006 where PCTs were divested with the responsibility for producing the PNA; since 1 April 2013 this responsibility now sits with Health & Wellbeing Boards (HWB).

### 3.2 Background to the PNA

National guidance states that the PNA should detail the current pharmaceutical service provision available in the area and where there may need to be changes to this in the future because of changes to the health needs or geographical location of the local population. The guidance, in line with regulations, includes both minimum content of a PNA and the process that must be followed.

The PNA is designed to be a statement of fact, both the current position and where there are 'known firm plans' in place to review or amend provision based on need, evidence of effective practice and identified gaps in provision. Also to assess where there are 'known firm plans' for

new developments or population changes which may impact on the needs of pharmaceutical services. It is designed to assess the need for pharmaceutical services and adequacy of provision of pharmaceutical services, not to assess general health needs. The latter is the role of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Preparation of the PNA has taken account of the needs identified in the JSNA, where they are relevant to pharmaceutical services.

#### **3.4. Public Consultation**

Information was gathered from pharmacy contractors on opening hours and the range of commissioned services they provide. However, the steering group felt it important to ask Halton residents what their experience of using community pharmacies was and what services they especially valued.

Steering group members, including Healthwatch and Halton & St Helens Council for Voluntary Services, publicised the survey widely.

117 people responded to the survey. Their responses were added across the document, supplementing the data from contractors

The vast majority were satisfied with their usual pharmacies opening hours and services provided.

#### **3.3 Statutory 60-day consultation**

The Regulations set out that HWBs must consult the bodies set out in Regulation 8 at least once during the process of developing the PNA.

Regulation 8(1) states that the HWB must consult the following list as a minimum during the development of the PNA:

- (a) Local Pharmaceutical Committee(s) (LPCs) for its area;
- (b) Local Medical Committee(s) for its area;
- (c) all pharmacy contractors and any dispensing doctors for its area;
- (d) any LPS chemist in its area with whom the NHS England has made arrangements for the provision of any local pharmaceutical services;
- (e) Local Healthwatch organisation for its area, and any other patient, consumer or community group in its area which in the opinion of HWB has an interest in the provision of pharmaceutical services in its area;
- (f) NHS trusts or NHS foundation trusts in its area;
- (g) NHS England;
- (h) neighbouring HWBs.

Additionally the steering group recommended that the draft PNA be sent to:

- all GP practices, not just those that are dispensing doctors.
- NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Halton Borough Council Public Health lead commissioner for locally commissioned public health pharmacy services.
- The neighbouring LPCs of Cheshire & Wirral and Liverpool.

### **3.4 60-day statutory consultation process**

A standard letter was sent to all organisations detailed in Section 3.3. The draft PNA document was available via the council website, PNA page with paper copies available on request.

The consultation opened on Tuesday 8 March 2022 and ended at close of normal business hours on Monday 9 May 2022.

The consultation formed a set of questions to which respondents could agree or disagree with space in each question to make comments. The survey was available online or could be filled in using a word document form that was included with the invitation letter.

4 responses were received.

### **3.5 60-day statutory consultation results**

The Steering Group met on 13 May 2022 to consider responses and any amends required in order to present this version of the PNA to the Health and Wellbeing Board as the final version.

The responses indicated that they agreed that:

- The purpose of the PNA had been sufficiently explained.
- The scope of the PNA was clear.
- The local context and implications of the PNA had been clearly explained.
- All commissioned services were reflected in the PNA with a reasonable description of each.
- The pharmaceutical needs of the local population were accurately reflected in the PNA.
- They agreed with the findings and future needs.
- There were no omissions within the PNA.

Some slight amends were noted concerning opening hours and provision of some advanced and locally commissioned services which had changed since the contractor survey and other data gathering exercises were completed. The document was updated to reflect these changes.

One respondent thought the document too long and repetitious in places. The PNA steering group noted this comment. Whilst it must include all the necessary content as laid out in national guidance and regulations, the steering group did reduce some of the content.

### **3.6 Proposed next steps**

- The PNA must be published no later than 1 October 2022.
- The Health & Wellbeing Board are asked to approve the attached

version of the PNA as the publication version.

- The PNA will be uploaded onto Halton Borough Council's website as part of the Public Health pages detailing the JSNA.
- This is communicated to key stakeholders and the public.
- The Steering Group will meet periodically and/or communicate electronically as needed to produce supplementary statements during the lifetime of the PNA.

These are needed if and when there are minor amends which do not substantially alter provision of pharmaceutical services. An example of this would be if a pharmacy changed their opening hours or in response to successful consolidations and mergers application.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The health needs identified in the JSNA have been used to develop the PNA.

The PNA provides a robust and detailed assessment of the need for pharmaceutical services across Halton borough. As such it should continue to be used in the decisions around 'market entry' as well as inform local pharmacy services commissioning decisions. Local groups and partnerships should also take the findings of the PNA into account when making decisions around the need for pharmaceutical services.

#### **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any legal challenges to decisions based on information in the PNA may open the HWB up to Judicial Review. This can have significant financial implications. It is therefore vital that the HWB continues to follow national guidance in the implementation of the Regulations.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

Improving the Health of Children and Young People is a key priority in Halton and this should be reflected in the PNA, detailing service provision that is appropriate to this age group.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Not applicable

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Not applicable

## **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The environment in which we live and the physical infrastructure of our communities has a direct impact on our health and wellbeing. Pharmacies provide a vital primary health care service to residents across the borough, are located within the heart of communities and offer open access to trained health professionals for advice on a wide range of issues.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Failure to comply with the regulatory duties fully may lead to a legal challenge, for example, where a party believes that they have been disadvantaged following the refusal by NHS England over their application to open new premises based on information contained in the PNA.

7.2 The risk of challenge to the HWB who produced that PNA is significant and Boards should add the PNA to the risk register.

7.3 A sound process, using national guidance and with support from local expertise, should be established to ensure this risk does not materialise.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The PNA seeks to provide intelligence on which to base decisions about service provision that are based on levels of need across the borough. This includes analysis of a range of vulnerable groups and the need for targeted as well as universal services to meet the range of needs identified.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.